(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of disaster response team in the railways

429. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "CRS report a bad procedure, says forensic expert" which appeared in 'Hindu'dated 9th October, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon;

(c) whether Government propose to set up an independent transport accidents investigation commission and a disaster response team at National level;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Commission of Railway Safety, a statutory body, functioning under administrative control of Ministry of Civil Aviation, is entrusted with inquiries into serious train accidents under the Railway Act-1989.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The existing machinery has been functioning satisfactorily.

Unmanned railway crossings

430. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of unmanned railway level crossings, State-wise;

(b) the details of the proposals with Government to have manned railways/level crossings in order to avert the accidents; and

(c) the estimated cost for this proposal, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) A statement is attached. (See below)

(b) As per the Codal provisions, manning of the level crossings necessitated due to increase in the road traffic is to be done at the cost of the State Govt/Road Authority normally. However, considering the grave consequences of the accidents at unmanned level crossings, Ministry of Railways have decided"in the year 1999 to man 4449 vulnerable/hazardous level crossings at Railway's cost depending upon the traffic volume and visibility considerations etc. subject to availability of the funds.

(c) The details of unmanned level crossings proposed for manning is maintained zone-wise and not State-wise. However, the estimated expenditure on manning of the 4449 level crossings will be approximately Rs. 445 crores as capital cost and Rs. 150 crores as annual recurring expenditure.

Statement

State-wise total number of unmanned railway crossings

States	Unmanned railway crossings
Assam	431
Andhra Pradesh	1516
Bihar	1864
Delhi	02
Gujarat	2862
Haryana	378
Himachal Pradesh	290
Jammu & Kashmir	34
Karnataka	947
Kerala	313
Madhya Pradesh	1694
Maharashtra	1476
Manipur	1
Mizoram	1
Orissa	1157
Punjab	1019

States	Unmanned railway crossings
Rajasthan	2115
Tamil Nadu	1305
Tripura Uttar Pradesh	19 3138
West Bengal	1491 1 9
Chandigarh	2
Pondicherry Goa	
Nagaland 1	

Completion of Gadwal-Raichur rail line

431. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked this year for completion of Gadwal-Raichur rail line under South Central Railway; and

(b) by when the project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) An amount of Rs. 1 cr. has been allocated during 2002-03 for Gadwal-Raichur new BG line.

(b) No target date has yet been fixed for completion of the project.

Investigation of rail accident of Rajdhani Express

432. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether preliminary investigations into the cause of Howrah-Delhi Rajdhani Express train accident near Aurangabad, Bihar, in September, 2002 have been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of passengers killed or injured and the property damaged, as a result of the accident;

(d) whether the relief and rescue operations were not conducted properly, resulting in more casualties; and